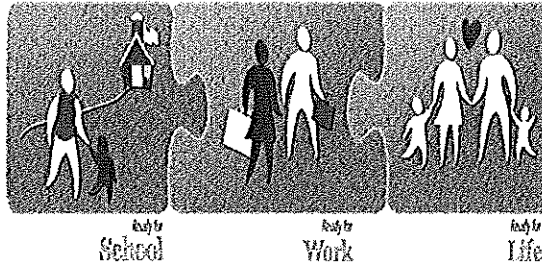


Child Daycare



Serving:

Ansonia
Bloomfield
Branford
Bridgeport
Bristol
Brooklyn
Chaplin
Danbury
Derby
East Lyme
Enfield
Greenwich
Griswold
Groton
Guilford
Hamden
Hartford
Killingly
Manchester
Mansfield
Meriden
Milford
Naugatuck
New Britain
New Canaan
New Haven
New London
New Milford
Newington
Newtown
North Haven
Norwalk
Norwich
Plainville
Plymouth
Southington
Stamford
Torrington
Vernon
Wallingford
Waterbury
Waterford
Watertown
West Haven
Winchester
Windham

State Funded Child Development Centers Director's Forum
Providing quality, affordable child care for working families

Testimony Submitted to the Human Services Committee
Kathy Queen, State Funded Child Development Directors Forum
February 5, 2015 on House Bill 5823, 795

Senator Moore, Representative Abercrombie and Members of the Committee:
Good afternoon, my name is Kathy Queen, and I am testifying this afternoon on behalf of the 102 State Child Development Centers in favor of HB 5823, An Act Implementing a State Wide coordinated Two-Generational Model.

Established in 1968, the State Funded Child Development Centers have embraced as our mission to serve the needs of children and families in holistic, two generational manner. The bill before you seeks to embed in public policy the principle that a two-generational approach to serving families will promote long term learning and economic success.

Child Development Centers provide quality early care and learning environments for low and moderate income families. The Two Generational Task Force Report recognizes the importance of quality child care in the Two Gen policy strategy and Connecticut can be proud of its long term commitment to investments in child care. The bill before you envisions a more coordinated system that embeds a Two Gen mind set in all settings serving children and families.

Sec. 198 (a) The Commission on Children shall, within available appropriations, establish a two-generational school readiness plan to promote long-term learning and economic success for low-income families by addressing intergenerational barriers to school readiness and workforce readiness with high-quality preschool, intensified workforce training and targeted education, coupled with related support services.

Connecticut has many initiatives, state and local, to build upon to implement the Two-Gen strategy. Discovery Communities, an initiative funded by the William Caspar Graustein Memorial Foundation, bring community stakeholders together to

develop and implement programs to promote positive outcomes for children. School Readiness Councils bring community, school, and early care and education providers together to plan for early learning experiences and family supports. Regional Workforce Boards bring stakeholders together to plan for workforce training and job programs. Community Action Organizations provide a multitude of services from basic needs to job training and anti- poverty programs. Communities have come together to address homelessness and housing needs. **Work is already underway to link families to these resources.**

The Child Development Centers are hubs in communities for families and we stand ready to work with the state to better coordinate services for families to meet the goals and objectives envisioned in this legislation. We recommend that the state build on existing community resources and community collaborations in implementing the recommendations outlined in the Report. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today.